

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A communications system and method for transmitting authorization messages to mobile platforms is provided. The communications system authorizes the mobile platform to continue transmitting data with a single signal rather than multiple signals. Specifically, the authorization signal comprises a unique address for a path of forward link equipment that transmits data to the mobile platform. The unique address informs the mobile platform which equipment is currently being used for data transmission, and the mobile platform then relays this information back to a ground station. The authorization signal further comprises a return link assignment that informs the mobile platform which transponder is to be used for data transmission back to the ground station. Accordingly, a single signal is used to transmit the required data to the mobile platforms.